

then for sanction of post offices due to ban on creation of posts and a decision taken during 1989-90 to revise the norms in this regard in consultation with some expert agency which took some time. For the year 90-91, however, a target of opening 50 extra-departmental branch post offices was fixed which was fully achieved.

Telephone exchanges: 4 telephone exchanges (Narikudi, Suriyur, Marthandam, Pattarai-perunbudur) were installed in 1989-90 and one telephone exchange was installed at Varusanadu in 1990-91.

Complaints Regarding Excess Billing

2932. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints relating to excess billing received by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam, Delhi during 1990-91;

(b) whether these complaints have been attended to; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). The information has been called for from the concerned units and shall be placed on the table of the House as early as possible.

Rules for Public Telephones

2933. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has liberalised the rules for providing public telephones at common places with facility for both local and STD calls; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To enhance accessibility of telephones to public, it has been decided to substantially increase the number of public telephones (PTs) and provide these at common public places to be run by individuals or organisations.

Besides, above, under our liberalised policies for STD/ISD Public Telephones, members of the public are also eligible to apply for such public telephones. Preference is given to:

(1) Handicapped persons/War widows

(2) Ex-servicemen.

(3) Retired D.O.T. employees.

(4) Women (Educated & unemployed)

(5) SC/ST and other weaker sections of society.

Local free telephone have been installed at hospitals in major cities and District H.Q..

It has also been decided to provide S.T.D. Public Telephones at hostel with incoming facility.

Telecast of Tribal dance and Songs

2934. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribal dance and songs are telecast on Delhi Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the number of such programmes to be telecast during the current year;

(c) whether Government have any separate agency for recording the tribal dances and songs of different tribes on different festive occasions of the tribals; and

(d) If not, whether Government propose to set up a separate agency for the purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). Doordarshan is already telecasting at regular interval programmes covering tribal dances and songs from its various Kendras to the extent possible within the existing available telecast time.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no such proposal.

Lock Out in Palaghat I.T.L

2935. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the any Lock-out of Indian Telephone Industries at Palaghat district (Kanjikode) in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The management of the Company had to resort to declare lock-out to acts of sabotage, damages caused to vital installations inside the factory, acts of threat, stoppage of essential services and intimidation by groups of employees against officers and the managerial staff.

(c) Prior to resorting to lock-out the management held several rounds of discussions with the representatives of the rival unions functioning in the unit. Efforts were made to avoid the declarations of lock-out. The labour Department of Government of Kerala was associated through-out for resolving the issues involved. The Union Government has also been keeping a watch

to ensure that the situation is remedied. The lock-out has since been lived with-effect from 9.11.1991.

Decentralisation of LT.Is.

2936. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to decentralise the Indian Telephone Industries (ITIs); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Memorandum from All India Postal Employees Unions

2937. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a memorandum jointly submitted by three All India Unions of Postal Employees;

(b) if so, the details of the memorandum;

(c) whether any action has been taken or proposed to be taken to settle the problems mentioned in the memorandum;

(d) whether the Government met any delegation of Postal Employees Unions recently in this connection; and

(e) if so, the details of the meeting?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement on Important points is enclosed